

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Currently Amended) A method for analyzing a financial impact of a resource reduction action, said method comprising:  
identifying a plurality of surplus employee data records, each surplus employee data record corresponding to an employee;  
retrieving a compensation amount corresponding to each identified surplus employee data record; [[and]]  
calculating a total savings amount by summing the retrieved compensation amounts;  
identifying a severance pay formula corresponding to each surplus employee data record;  
determining a severance amount for each employee by applying the identified severance pay formula to the corresponding surplus employee data record;  
calculating a total severance amount by summing each of the severance amounts;  
comparing the total severance amount to a budgeted severance amount;  
modifying the severance pay formula in response to the comparison;  
re-determining the severance amount for each employee by applying the modified severance pay formula to the corresponding surplus employee data record;  
recalculating the total severance amount by summing each of the re-determined severance amounts.
2. (Canceled)
3. (Canceled)

4. (Currently Amended) The method as described in claim [[2]] 1 further comprising:  
comparing each of the surplus employee data records to one or more additional compensation guidelines, wherein one or more of the additional compensation guidelines are selected from the group consisting of organizational guidelines, local laws, state laws, and national laws;  
determining additional severance pay amounts for one or more of the surplus employee data records in response to the comparing; and  
adding the additional severance pay amounts to the severance pay amounts corresponding to the one or more surplus employee data records.
5. (Currently Amended) The method as described in claim [[2]] 1 further comprising:  
estimating an expected severance cost, the estimating including:  
identifying a surplus percentage for one or more groups of employees;  
calculating an average severance amount for each of the groups of employees;  
calculating expected group severance costs by multiplying each group's average severance amount by the group's surplus percentage; and  
calculating the expected severance cost by summing the expected group ~~savings amounts~~ severance costs.
6. (Currently Amended) The method as described in claim 1 further comprising:  
comparing the total savings amount to a desired savings amount;  
modifying the number of surplus employee data records based on the comparing;  
selecting a second plurality of surplus employee data records based on the modified number of surplus employee data records;  
identifying the compensation amount corresponding to each selected surplus employee data record; and  
calculating a second total savings amount by summing the identified compensation amounts.
7. (Original) The method as described in claim 1 further comprising:

estimating an expected savings amount, the estimating including:

identifying a surplus percentage for one or more groups of employees;

calculating an average compensation for each of the groups of employees;

calculating expected group savings amounts by multiplying each group's average compensation by the group's surplus percentage; and

calculating the expected savings amount by summing the expected group savings amounts.

8. (Currently Amended) An information handling system comprising:

one or more processors;

a memory accessible by the processors;

one or more nonvolatile storage devices accessible by the processors;

[[an]] a financial impact analysis tool to analyze the impact of surplus resource reductions, the financial impact analysis tool including:

means for identifying a plurality of surplus employee data records, each surplus employee data record corresponding to an employee;

means for retrieving a compensation amount corresponding to each identified surplus employee data record; [[and]]

means for calculating a total savings amount by summing the retrieved compensation amounts; [[.]]

means for identifying a severance pay formula corresponding to each surplus employee data record;

means for determining a severance amount for each employee by applying the identified severance pay formula to the corresponding surplus employee data record;

means for calculating a total severance amount by summing each of the severance amounts.

means for comparing the total severance amount to a budgeted severance amount;

means for modifying the severance pay formula in response to the comparison;

means for re-determining the severance amount for each employee by applying the modified severance pay formula to the corresponding surplus employee data record; and

means for recalculating the total severance amount by summing each of the re-determined severance amounts.

9. (Canceled)

10. (Canceled)

11. (Currently Amended) The information handling system as described in claim [[9]] 8 further comprising:

means for comparing each of the surplus employee data records to one or more additional compensation guidelines, wherein one or more of the additional compensation guidelines are selected from the group consisting of organizational guidelines, local laws, state laws, and national laws;

means for determining additional severance pay amounts for one or more of the surplus employee data records in response to the comparing; and

means for adding the additional severance pay amounts to the severance pay amounts corresponding to the one or more surplus employee data records.

12. (Currently Amended) The information handling system as described in claim 8 further comprising:

means for comparing the total savings amount to a desired savings amount;

means for modifying the number of surplus employee data records based on the comparing;

means for selecting a second plurality of surplus employee data records based on the modified number of surplus employee data records;

means for identifying the compensation amount corresponding to each selected surplus employee data record; and  
 means for calculating a second total savings amount by summing the identified compensation amounts.

13. (Original) The information handling system as described in claim 8 further comprising:

means for estimating an expected savings amount, the estimating including:

means for identifying a surplus percentage for one or more groups of employees;

means for calculating an average compensation for each of the groups of employees;

means for calculating expected group savings amounts by multiplying each group's average compensation by the group's surplus percentage; and

means for calculating the expected savings amount by summing the expected group savings amounts.

14. (Currently Amended) A computer program product stored in a computer operable media, the computer operable media containing instructions for execution by a computer, which, when executed by the computer, cause the computer to perform a method for analyzing a financial impact of a resource reduction action, said ~~computer program product~~ method comprising:

~~means for~~ identifying a plurality of surplus employee data records, each surplus employee data record corresponding to an employee;

~~means for~~ retrieving a compensation amount corresponding to each identified surplus employee data record; [[and]]

~~means for~~ calculating a total savings amount by summing the retrieved compensation amounts; [[.]]

identifying a severance pay formula corresponding to each surplus employee data record;

determining a severance amount for each employee by applying the identified severance pay formula to the corresponding surplus employee data record;

calculating a total severance amount by summing each of the severance amounts.

comparing the total severance amount to a budgeted severance amount;

modifying the severance pay formula in response to the comparison;

re-determining the severance amount for each employee by applying the modified severance pay formula to the corresponding surplus employee data record;

recalculating the total severance amount by summing each of the re-determined severance amounts.

15. (Canceled)

16. (Canceled)

17. (Currently Amended) The computer program product as described in claim 45 ~~further comprising~~ 14 wherein the method further comprises:

~~means for~~ comparing each of the surplus employee data records to one or more additional compensation guidelines, wherein one or more of the additional compensation guidelines are selected from the group consisting of organizational guidelines, local laws, state laws, and national laws;

~~means for~~ determining additional severance pay amounts for one or more of the surplus employee data records in response to the comparing; and

~~means for~~ adding the additional severance pay amounts to the severance pay amounts corresponding to the one or more surplus employee data records.

18. (Currently Amended) The computer program product as described in claim 45 ~~further comprising~~ 14 wherein the method further comprises:

~~means for~~ estimating an expected severance cost, the ~~means for~~ estimating including:

~~means for~~ identifying a surplus percentage for one or more groups of employees;

~~means for~~ calculating an average severance amount for each of the groups of employees;

~~means for~~ calculating expected group severance costs by multiplying each group's average severance amount by the group's surplus percentage; and

~~means for~~ calculating the expected severance cost by summing the expected group ~~savings amounts~~ severance costs.

19. (Currently Amended) The computer program product as described in claim 14 further comprising wherein the method further comprises:

~~means for~~ comparing the total savings amount to a desired savings amount;

~~means for~~ modifying the number of surplus employee data records based on the comparing;

~~means for~~ selecting a second plurality of surplus employee data records based on the modified number of surplus employee data records;

~~means for~~ identifying the compensation amount corresponding to each selected surplus employee data record; and

~~means for~~ calculating a second total savings amount by summing the identified compensation amounts.

20. (Currently Amended) The computer program product as described in claim 14 further comprising wherein the method further comprises:

~~means for~~ estimating an expected savings amount, the estimating including:

~~means for~~ identifying a surplus percentage for one or more groups of employees;

~~means for~~ calculating an average compensation for each of the groups of employees;

~~means for~~ calculating expected group savings amounts by multiplying  
each group's average compensation by the group's surplus  
percentage; and

~~means for~~ calculating the expected savings amount by summing the  
expected group savings amounts.